



Jon Stanhope MLA

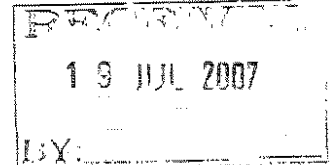
CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Senator Guy Barnett
Committee Chair
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator Barnett

Thank you for providing the ACT Government with the opportunity to make a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment Bill 2007 (the Bill).

I am supportive of the move to a single comprehensive legislative regime for dealing with access to telecommunications information for law enforcement purposes.

I understand that the Bill, in consolidating and clarifying provisions for accessing telecommunications data for national security and law enforcement purposes, aims to better protect the privacy of telecommunications users. Whilst this is the case, I would like to encourage the Committee to look closely at the safeguards in place to protect the privacy of telecommunications users.

In this regard I note the large and growing volume of telecommunications interception activity and disclosures of telecommunications data (2929 warrants issued under the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* for law enforcement purposes in 2005-2006 and 944,367 disclosures under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* for law enforcement and other purposes in 2005-2006). Clearly there is a strong case for ensuring that appropriate oversight bodies, the Commonwealth and State and Territory Ombudsmen and the Commonwealth Inspector General Intelligence Services, are appropriately resourced to ensure proper monitoring and oversight of this activity.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

16 JUL 2007

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY